

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS TAIPEI 000030

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EAP/RSP/TC, EAP/PA, EAP/PD -
ROBERT PALLADINO
DEPARTMENT PASS AIT/WASHINGTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC KMDR KPAO TW

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: TSUNAMI RELIEF, U.S.-CHINA-TAIWAN RELATIONS

11. Tsunami Relief

"Relief Efforts for South Asia's [Tsunami Disaster] Must Be Based on Human Rights and Also Serve Diplomatic Purposes in Order to Win the [International Community's] Respect"

The pro-independence "Taiwan Daily" said in an editorial (1/5):

". The United States' relief efforts [for the tsunami disaster in South Asia] are also a demonstration of its political strength. Washington has not only increased its relief fund from USD35 million to 350 million - an amount that exceeds that donated by China - but has also sent battleships to the devastated areas in Indonesia, using its navy helicopters to help deliver food and other major supplies to the tsunami victims. Another U.S. fleet carrying 1,500 Marine Corps soldiers has also arrived in Sri Lanka for relief operations. U.S. influence, which was believed to have disappeared rapidly some time earlier, is now back [to the region] because of this natural disaster. In the meantime, the United States is acting proactively in an attempt to use this opportunity to mend its deteriorating relations with the Muslim countries. ."

12. U.S.-China-Taiwan Relations

"Stability Offers Hope for Better Cross-Strait Ties"

The pro-independence, English-language "Taiwan News" editorialized (1/5):

". Although the U.S. has upheld what it calls 'our one-China policy' for over 30 years, Washington has never clearly defined what this 'our one-China policy' actually is and has stressed its hope that no side will take actions to arbitrarily change the so-called 'status quo.'

"In effect, the U.S. has adopted a 'legally ambiguous but strategically in the U.S. sphere of influence' stance regarding the position of Taiwan.

"In the future, relations between Washington and Beijing will probably continue to develop on the basis of this principle, which apparently cannot be altered arbitrarily by any one person or political party. .

"Owing to the improvement in U.S.-PRC ties, the situation in cross-strait relations should also tend to become more stable and predictable.

"Washington is very anxious to encourage both Beijing and Taipei to resume dialogue in order to ease cross-strait tensions and open the possibility for more positive mutual interaction.

"The statement made by President Chen Shui-bian in his October 10 National Day Address that such dialogue could resume on the foundations of the September 1992 talks in Hong Kong between Taipei's semi-official Strait Exchange Foundation and Beijing's counterpart Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait offered a 'new element' to the picture that can act as a lever to prepare the way for new talks.

"Whether the two sides can succeed in arranging lunar new year holiday charter flights for Taiwan businesspersons in China may provide a crucial test to see whether cross-strait relations will worsen or improve in the new year."

PAAL